



THE UNITING CHURCH
in Australia

ORMOND



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

THE

PATHFINDER

JULY 2024

MINISTER'S LETTER

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

I have been asked by Formation Group to share what worship is.

I know you most probably think, 'But we know what it is already!' So, my apologies to those who already feel they have a good grasp of the meaning of worship. I hope all who read the following will be open to learning some new ideas about worship but also feel free to share their own understandings on the topic.

Over the remainder of the year, I am going to dissect forensically our worship practices in each of the remaining Pathfinders. Therefore, there will be opportunities for folk to contribute their own views. I certainly would appreciate contributions from others in the congregation and I am sure others would as well.

Today I want to look at the basic reason why we worship. Then in subsequent months we will examine issues like, why we pray, what we pray and when we pray it; what we read, why we read it and where (position in the overall act of worship) we read it; what we sing, why we sing it and where we sing it, etc., etc. I hope you find these next 6 months rewarding, I know I will!!!

The word worship is derived from the Old English, meaning honour shown to an object; worthiness or worth-ship.

To worship something is to prize it above everything else. To honour it as the thing of highest importance and to act accordingly.

At the heart of what it is to be a Christian is to offer thanks and praise to God who loves us and redeems us (rescues us from our brokenness – recreating us as we were meant to be.)

But wait a minute: there's more! Not only does God rescue us from our brokenness ('sin'), remake us and offer God's ongoing new life to us - this is all done 'free of charge!' That is, pure unadulterated mercy – the richest of free gifts anyone can ever be given!

Given this, how can we do anything other than offer wonder, thanks and praise to God!

Let's dig a bit deeper

Because Jesus lived his human life completely in accordance with the wishes of his heavenly Father and died because of that (a victim of our brokenness and rejection of all things 'God!' = 'sin!'), God made a very weird choice!

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Christmas in July is back!

Saturday 20th July, 6.30 p.m.

Banish the winter chills by joining us for “**Christmas Dinner in July**” at the Ortolan-Roberts family home (THANK YOU once again Daniel, Karen and Frank).

A simple meal, desserts and coffee/tea will be served, good conversation will be had by all, and there may even be the opportunity to sing a carol or two.

Furthermore, on good authority I understand the rotund guy dressed in red with a big white beard, will make an appearance, with a sack full of goodies for us all!

Address: 204 Poath Road, Hughesdale, 3166. Note: for those who have mobility issues, please feel free to enter via the side gate (off Ellendale Street).

RSVP to the church office (0411 958 127) or Ron Townsend (0438 4040 104) by Sunday July 14.

If you are able to contribute a **dessert** (Christmas-themed or otherwise) please let Cate or Ron know.

Still and sparkling water, and tea & coffee will be available on the night – if you would prefer an alcoholic beverage or soft drink, please feel free to BYO.

Transport: If you need help with transport or are able to offer a lift to another, please let Cate or Ron know ASAP. We will **organise rides for all** who need them (in cars, not on sleighs drawn by reindeer!)



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An aside: The little 'g' gods I see regularly running around in modern video games and in ancient Greek culture, and the like, ALL choose revenge and harm to those who have inflicted hurt on their own.

Not so the one and only God of us all. Instead, the one God, creator of all, chooses to give new life to his Son, AND extends that remarkable gift to all!! Where 'all' means the whole of creation!

Preposterous! Unbelievable! Irrational! Yes! All that and more if we remain captured by a limited human-centred view of existence! It is only when we look to the heavens and wonder about matters like creation, meaning, life, the beyond, infinity, purpose, 'the beginning', 'the end' etc that questions of mystery, wonder and awe demand our attention!

This is why we worship – this is why we gather, to do the strange things we do on a Sunday morning, or afternoon for that matter!

Sometimes, on a Sunday morning I think, 'Oh, I have had a hard week, I think I will sit in front of the tele and watch some rubbish, like footy or a movie or a quiz or even the news! Then, out of a sense of duty, I think, I'd better show, (after all I am taking the service!) and then the Spirit steps in and I find myself singing the words of a hymn like.....

*Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless,
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
glorious in his faithfulness.*

(v2 of TiS 134 'Praise my soul the king of heaven.')

.....and knowing that there is nothing more important in life that one can do than this – to worship God!

Worship is when we give our deepest affections and highest praise to something. True worship of God is when we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It's when we prize God above everything else and put God first in our hearts.

As it says in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - *"The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*

Next month we will consider the 'flow of Worship!'

The blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Ron

‘Who do you say that I am?’ Understanding Jesus Christ

Who was Jesus Christ and what did he do to make the earliest Christians believe he was God made human?

Exploring this question requires more than studying history, the bible and theology. It is a question we come to with our own experience of faith. Over eight sessions we will put Jesus of Nazareth in his historical context to understand how his Jewish tradition shaped who he was on earth. We will look closely at his mission of healing (including exorcisms) and how his own suffering and sacrifice on the cross help us understand the place of suffering in our own lives. We will explore how central resurrection is in understanding who Jesus was and how subsequent generations came to see Jesus as both fully human and fully divine. Traditionally Jesus’ divinity has been explained through the doctrine of the trinity, but we will spend time uncovering the often neglected but exciting area of Wisdom Christology. We will conclude by actively reflecting on who each of us understands Jesus to be, especially in our relationship to him and each other.

We hope you can join us in what promises to be a stimulating and enriching exploration of the central figure of our faith. Each week you will have an opportunity to engage with written materials sent to your inbox and discuss these and other interesting topics during the interactive sessions.

Dates: Thursdays, July 18th to September 5th (with a one week break after week 4),

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Cost: \$80 or by donation

Venue: Zoom

Facilitator: Brad Denniston

Enrolments/Enquiries: Visit ormondunitingchurch.org/ormond-learning-hub

or call Cate on 0411 958 127

or email office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Important info: This course is open to everyone, not just people at Ormond. Because it is online it can be easily accessed by people living anywhere! We are keen to advertise this course widely and encourage participation from people beyond the OUC congregation. You can help by passing on this information to others – family, colleagues, friends, other churches. Please speak with Brad, Lisa, Dianne or Cate if you have ideas of where we can publicise the course.

Message for the 47th Uniting Church Anniversary 22 June 2024

From Assembly President Rev Sharon Hollis

Hello, it's a great privilege for me to be recording this, my final Uniting Church anniversary video. My time as President has been a time of deep joy as I've travelled the length and breadth of the country, getting to see and know the range of things that the Uniting Church is engaged in, and as I've represented the Uniting Church overseas, to see the global witness of the Christian Church and our part that we play in that.

So, as we come to this anniversary day, I want to reflect on a few things that I have seen and heard as I've travelled across the Church.

First of all, in this year in which we are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Covenant and the 15th Anniversary of the Preamble, we need to give thanks for the life and ministry of Congress. We are blessed by their presence in our Church, and I know for myself I have been deeply encouraged as I have learnt and been taught by Congress leaders across the country. But the Covenant remains unfinished business for us.

We must not lose sight of the fact that we are not yet fully living into that Covenant. We still have work to do to walk together as equals, First and Second peoples, and the question of justice, reparation and reconciliation for First Nations peoples in this land remains work to be done. So even as we mark these anniversaries, let us commit to being a Church that continues to ask ourselves, what does it mean to be a Covenant keeping Church?

As I said, one of the great joys of my time has been to meet so many of you Uniting Church people. It's been a privilege to see the worship, witness and service of the Uniting Church. To see the way in which so many of you give so much of yourselves, your time, your energy, your gifts and your talents. To building communities of openness and inclusion, communities where the Gospel is proclaimed, where human need is met, where you create places of welcome, community and acceptance. It is a joy to know so many of you are about this work of the Kingdom.

I encourage you to keep doing that, to keep finding creative ways to share the Gospel, to keep finding ways to join with other people in this work, to

keep reminding ourselves at the heart of who we are, is this call to be communities of worship, where the Gospel is proclaimed and prayer is offered, to be communities of witness, where we tell the good news of who Jesus Christ is for us, and to be communities of service, meeting the needs of our neighbours, either those close at hand or those at far afield. These communities that I have witnessed and the work of our agencies, our schools, point to the huge diversity of ways in which the Uniting Church is present.

We are one church across a great diversity of beliefs and practices, ways of being and doing and thinking about what it means to be the Uniting Church. That is what a Uniting Church should be; a place where people can come and explore questions of faith, where we can learn from each other and from other Christians around the globe and in Australia, and where we seek to find what it might mean to be engaged always in the sharing of the Kingdom of God, wherever we are located, in whatever form of church we are engaged in.

This, my friends, is the call of the Uniting Church to be communities that seek to serve the world because God has served us in Jesus Christ.

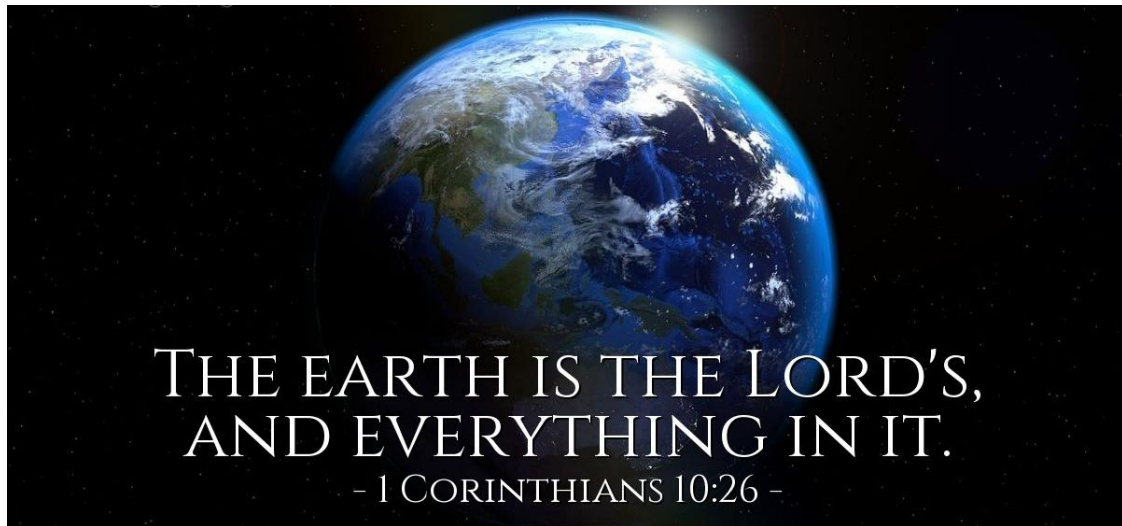
Happy Anniversary!

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Our next Friendship Circle gathering will be at Jan & Graeme Davenport's home at **1.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY 17th July.**

We hope you can join us for a chat and afternoon tea.
For further details or to arrange a lift please contact Jan.

Take care
Jan Davenport
ph: 9578 1713



Warming Winter Tales....

Winter is knitting time

Throughout Winter, and the cooler months, I enjoy knitting in the evenings. I no longer take on complex patterns, or big projects, but rather simple items, such as beanies, scarves, mittens and even squares (to left over wool).



use

Knitting small clothing accessories, which don't take long to complete, provides the opportunity to use different colours, and types, of wool. These knitted goods I give to KOGO (www.kogo.org.au), which is a registered not-for-profit organisation, that distributes items, knitted by volunteers, to numerous charities. More than 100,000 knitted 'winter warmers' are distributed, by KOGO, to vulnerable people across Australia each year. Marg D

Marg – thank you for this contribution. KOGO was founded by a Melbourne person (Ros Rogers) in about 2005 when I was working at Ardoch Youth Foundation. We distributed the donated items to schools with high levels of student disadvantage and the students just loved the hats and scarves. Many were worn well after the winter chills had ended! It's amazing what one person's idea can grow into and the joy and comfort it can bring to so many people. Dianne

Winter is Showtime



For many years, July has meant participating in a music theatre production with Diamond Valley Singers.

Along with Gary and Robyn, I have taken on a number of roles, both on and off stage. This year, the production is *The Little Mermaid* and we have been busily making costumes for several months. The cast (all 50 something of them) are mostly aged in their 20s and 30s.

And the warmth? The joy and delight these young people gain from performing on stage and working together as a team to prepare a wonderful performance. They are accepting of diversity (age, background, sexuality, neurodiversity, etc.) and actively work to ensure everyone can feel included. We are older but not necessarily wiser.

It is heart-warming for us to be part of that team and to both give and receive the gifts of acceptance and appreciation of others.

Dianne

PS: It will still be winter when the August edition of Pathfinder is available. How about sending us your Winter Tale???

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

FROM UCA ASSEMBLY

With profound sadness, the Uniting Church Assembly mourns the passing of Rev Dr Gondarra OAM, a giant in the life of the Uniting Church and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and a revered Yolŋu leader.

Rev Dr Gondarra was instrumental in the founding of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and provided visionary leadership to Congress, the Uniting Church and the global church for over four decades.

He died at home on Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island), surrounded by family. He was 79.

“The loss of the Reverend Doctor has seen the curtain close on one of the most extraordinary men of our time,” said UAICC National Chairperson Rev Mark Kickett.

“When the book of Hebrews talks about the heroes of faith in Chapter 11, so too the Reverend Doctor can be numbered amongst them as a hero of faith and a giant in the journey and life of the UAICC and the Uniting Church in Australia.”

Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis said, “Rev Dr Gondarra OAM was a tireless advocate for his people and their right to sovereignty and self-determination.”

“He showed us how Indigenous culture and spirituality can inform and enliven theology. His writing and teaching was my first introduction to Indigenous theology and I give thanks for this gift.”

WINTER WARMING JAMS AND MARMALADES

Strawberry Chilli Chutney, Blackberry and Apple Jam, and Cumquat Marmalade are among the warming delights available for a donation to ASRC. Contact Dianne Richter on 0413 750 089 for orders
local-ish delivery available

Sponsor a birth certificate for an Aboriginal child

Birth certificates are currency. For some Aboriginal people, their [cost is too high](#).

[Pathfinders](#) has assisted more than 13,000 people since 2015 by ensuring Aboriginal people are assisted by mob in the application process. They need your help to keep holding sign up days for **1000 more First Nations people** who need this important document.



For 17 years, Dakota Saltner did not exist in the eyes of the government. The teenager was born in the remote Indigenous community of Woorabinda, central Queensland, in 2004 but her birth was not registered. Gaining her birth certificate has been life changing. "Just to have a legal document for myself to know where I come


from, and also get other IDs for myself like my driver's licence and other legal documents as well," she said. "it's just given me more options." Show solidarity and chip in to help Aboriginal people and families get their birth certificate for free.

More information:

https://chuffed.org/campaign/pnabc?utm_source=vero&utm_medium=email&utm_content=control&utm_campaign=20240630%20%7C%20Pathfinders%20%7C%20All%20donor%20single&utm_term=Newsletter&vero_id=582099&vero_conv=f4J58S5cHcgdaVndkOImm9kWhkoJmus8UulAZBeT8ICHDJHHrg96vsEt4RJ1i-XhYUyFqUPEHTBjrBDcA9yVBeM5Tib4aWvUkhM%3D



[Fund a birth certificate for an Aboriginal child](#)

A message from Aunty Rosie 
chuffed.org

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Just letting everyone know that the ASRC Telethon, held during refugee week, achieved their target of just over \$1.4m. They are absolutely delighted with the result.

This money needs to go far and wide. As well as many other things, the funds raised through the Telethon will enable the ASRC to:

- Provide crisis accommodation for people seeking asylum. Right now, about two thirds of people who come to the ASRC everyday are expressing housing insecurity concerns, and there is a worrying increase in single women and single mothers with young children facing homelessness.
- Through their foodbank, help provide families with culturally familiar foods and essential groceries.
- Help fund training and empowerment programs that increase employment opportunities for people seeking asylum.
- Help provide access to justice and fund the legal fight for their freedom and protection.
- Continue to campaign, organise and lobby for systemic change.

And much more!

From the ASRC: *For everyone who contributed, in whatever way they could, our hearts are full and we are so grateful.*

The support of this compassionate community knows no bounds. Thank you all for standing with refugees and being a force for change in the lives of people seeking asylum.

Many thanks to those from OUC who contributed to this Telethon.

Brenda

See also notice on page 9

CONGREGATION POWERS ON – from CROSSLIGHT

As a long-time member of the Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale Uniting Church, Richard Allen has seen plenty of change in his 27 years as part of the congregation.

It's a progressive congregation, and one with a real focus on looking after the environment, says Richard, who is also Church Council secretary.

That commitment to protecting the environment becomes more and more important, as the science tells us that mankind's impact on the world is continuing to drive major climate disruption.

And while that environmental commitment is heavily grounded in faith, it's also about being part of a wider community approach to arresting the negative impacts of climate change.

"We believe looking after God's creation should be a missional activity, and something based around scriptural lessons and quotations," Richard says.

"We are exhorted to look after the planet and God's creation, so we consider it very much an important missional part of what we do as a congregation.

"But that environmental commitment isn't just from a purely faith-based perspective.

"It's about having a real commitment to the environment as part of the wider community, and much of our congregation's work in this space is done in conjunction with a number of community organisations.

"We're just a small part of a larger community tackling the impacts of climate change."

As the wider Uniting Church commits to reducing its carbon footprint and aims for net zero emissions by 2040, congregations like Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale are also doing their bit in the battle against what former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd famously described as "the great moral challenge of our generation".

"The National Assembly's pledge around net zero emissions wasn't the initial driver for us, because we have been embracing moves towards renewable energy sources for a few years before that," Richard says.

"Having said that, we're aware of the Assembly's pledge, we totally support it and feel totally supported in our own efforts."

Planning Ahead.....

Given that we won't be back into our own church until the first quarter of 2025, Church Council is thinking about what this means for our congregation this coming Christmas. We have agreed that we will look to join with another congregation in the area for Christmas Day – options are being explored.

We will also be having our own service of readings and carols on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm in the Church of Christ building. However, it may be possible to hold a Uniting Church service on Christmas Eve – we are waiting for this to be clarified by the Church of Christ Board.

It would help us with our planning if we knew how many OUC folk would be likely to attend a Christmas Eve service at (say) 7.00pm. Please give this some thought and let your Pastoral Link person know.

Lectionary Readings

July 7	Pentecost 7	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10, Psalm 48, June 162 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
July 14	Pentecost 8	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29
July 21	Pentecost 9	2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 28	Pentecost 10	2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
August 4	Pentecost 11	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
August 11	Pentecost 12	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

Rosters

	Reading	Prayers	Communion	Welcoming
July 7 th	Heather B	David N	Marg D Warwick B	Lynne P Nev P
July 14 th	Suzie F	Heather B		Jan D Graeme D
July 21 st	Lorraine D	Mardie T		<u>Lorraine D</u> <u>Gary R</u>
July 28 th	Gary R	Warwick B		Hans T Warwick B
August 4 th	Robyn M	Dianne R	Heather B Lorraine D	Jan D Graeme D
August 11 th	Brenda G	Heather B		Lorraine D Frank O

	Sound	Afternoon Tea	Resource Delivery
July 7 th	Graeme D	Suzie F Jan D	Lynne P
July 14 th	Robyn M	Lynne P Nev P	Frank O
July 21 st	Lisa S	Mardie T Ron T	Gary R
July 28 th	Nev P	Lorraine D Lisa S	Brenda G
August 4 th	Gary R	Lynne P Nev P	Ron T
August 11 th	Gary R	Brenda G Lisa S	Gary R

Images

Cover: https://www.freepik.com/free-ai-image/key-event-life-jesus-christ_132312724.htm

<https://nimble-needles.com/learn-to-knit-for-beginners/>

<https://www.heartlight.org/gallery/7063.html>

others by OUC members

Diary Dates

Sunday 7 th July	4.00 p.m.	Worship – Revd Ron Townsend
Sunday 14 th July	4.00 p.m.	Worship – Revd Dr Tony Floyd
Tuesday 16 th July	7.45 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday 17 th July	1.30 p.m.	Friendship Circle
Thursday 18 th July	7.30 p.m.	Learning Hub “Who Do You Say I Am?”
Saturday 20 July	6.30 p.m.	Christmas in July Dinner
Sunday 21 st July	4.00 p.m.	Worship – Revd Dr Tony Floyd
Thursday 25 th July	7.30 p.m.	Learning Hub “Who Do You Say I Am?”
Saturday 27 th July	8.30 a.m.	Bob’s Boys
Sunday 28 th July	4.00 p.m.	Worship – Revd Ron Townsend
Monday 29 th July	6.00 p.m.	Material for <i>Pathfinder</i> due
Thursday 1 st August	7.30 p.m.	Learning Hub “Who Do You Say I Am?”
Sunday 4 th August	4.00 p.m.	Worship
Thursday 8 th August	7.30 p.m.	Learning Hub “Who Do You Say I Am?”
Sunday 11 th August	4.00 p.m.	Worship
Sunday 18 th August	4.00 p.m.	Worship
Tuesday 20 th August	7.45 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday 21 st August	1.30 p.m.	Friendship Circle
Thursday 22 nd August	7.30 p.m.	Learning Hub “Who Do You Say I Am?”

